

FRENCH CLAIM GERMANS DRIVEN FROM CAPTURED VERDUN FORT

GRIDIRON CLUB RUBS HAS BEENS AND WOULD-BES

At Second Dinner of Winter Famous Organization Projects Itself Into the Convention Activities of Next June

HELPS CANDIDATES ON THEIR WAY

From President Wilson Down Washington Officials Come In for Their Share of Fun Making and Rich Satire

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The Gridiron club tonight at its second dinner of the winter, projected itself into the convention activities of next June and helped a distinguished party of presidential makers and candidates board trains for Chicago and St. Louis to meet the fates awaiting them there. In a make-believe railway station the actor-members of the club satirized the follies of some of their guests and some well-known men who were not present.

President Wilson was among those who looked on, and he may have received an intimation of the opposition he will meet later in the year. Vice President Marshall, the secretary of state, navy and interior, the Brazilian ambassador, the Chinese and Bolivian ministers, several members of the senate and house, officers of the army and navy, and a number of the most notable figures in the nation's financial and industrial life were present.

The newly elected president of the club, Louis W. Strayer of the Pittsburg Dispatch, was inaugurated with a humorous skit in which all members participated, variously attired to represent the old guard, the regular army reserve, the continental army, the government merchant marine, progressive party and war revenue tax collectors.

The most ambitious of several sketches presented by the club was the political one. Scrambles to make railroads, "strange travelling" companions, and ticket complexities that confounded the railway station offered extraordinary opportunities for fun-making. Passing through the Chicago gate were regular and progressive republicans, characters representing former Senators Burton and Beveridge, former Vice President Fairbanks, Senators Sherman, Borah, Cummings, Weeks and Penrose, Representative Cannon, former President Roosevelt, William Barnes and George W. Perkins of New York. Through the St. Louis gate passed Secretary McAdoo, Postmaster General Burleson, Charles F. Murphy of New York and William Jennings Bryan.

The first passenger to reach the Chicago train was recognized by one of the two gatekeepers as Senator Burton. Nervous and fussed, he inquired if he were too late and appeared greatly relieved when told that he was "leading the parade."

"You won't be too late till you get to Chicago," he was informed as the gatekeeper punched his ticket.

Next came a passenger for St. Louis, who was hailed as Secretary McAdoo. He produced a weird looking ticket, finally recognized as mileage, which the gatekeeper examined laboriously, muttering that it seemed "as complicated as the shipping bill." The gatekeeper asked if a mistake hadn't been made, its intricacies were explained by methods of addition and subtraction, and the passenger passed through grinning. The gatekeeper, recovering, remarked to his pal: "That wasn't no railroad ticket; that was today's treasury statement."

Among the next batch of passengers was a tall, heavy-set man, carrying a broken plank under his arm, who tried

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WOMEN CONVINCED SUFFRAGE HAS LITTLE CHANCE AT THIS SESSION

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BOSTON, Feb. 26.—A survey of the present congress has convinced suffrage advocates that there is no hope of obtaining from it action favorable to national woman suffrage. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage association, said at a conference of suffrage workers of this state today, "The campaign to convince congress will be continued," she added, "because by aiming at congress we may hit something else."

WILL REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Great Britain has informed Ambassador Page at London that it will reply to the American notes regarding interference with neutral mails and the trading with the enemy not at the earliest possible moment. The notes were dispatched several weeks ago, and recently the state department asked for reply. It is indicated that Great Britain is awaiting the results of conferences with her allies before responding.

PENNY AN HOUR INCREASE HOLDS UP SETTLEMENT

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26.—Refusal of officials of the Cudahy and Armour packing companies to grant a flat increase of one cent an hour to the common laborers tonight again interfered with a settlement of the strike of packing house employees.

Officials of the packing houses declared their decision was an ultimatum and that both plants would be closed.

Brass Workers to Return

ANSONIA, Conn., Feb. 26.—The strike of laborers at the American brass company's mills was formally declared ended today. The men will return to work Monday under a compromise settlement which gives them a 10 per cent increase in wages.

When the decision was made public virtually the whole city turned out to make holiday over the ending of the strike which began nearly two weeks ago. More than 1,500 strikers marched through the streets.

Actors Threaten Strike

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 26.—Representatives of the Actors Union and the syndicate of theatrical employees called on General Pablo Gonzalez today relative to the general strike of three thousand artists who threatened to close all places of amusement throughout the republic unless their demands for full pay for all holiday performances and better working conditions were granted. The strike leaders are said to have promised the military authorities that they would refrain from calling the strike until the government investigates their complaint.

BULGER IS REPRIEVED

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

DENVER, Feb. 26.—The supreme court of Colorado granted today a stay of execution to the week beginning May 21 to James C. Bulger, under sentence to be hanged the week beginning February 27 for killing Lloyd E. Nicodemus of Denver.

MEXICAN 'INDUSTRIAL WORKERS' MUST REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

MEXICO CITY, Mex., Feb. 26.—La Casa Obrera Mundial, the Mexican branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, which threatened a strike in the various cities of the republic to commence tomorrow unless a wage increase of 50 per cent in gold was granted, was informed by the government today that any attempt at disorder would be met by force.

General Fredo Rodriguez, chief of staff to General Pablo Gonzalez, made the following statement today: "General Carranza has ordered that

any interference with public order on the part of the workmen be met with force. The workmen have been advised to desist in their attempt to paralyze industry by a general strike and to make what demands they have in a rational manner, at which time the government will help them with reason. The government has assured the heads of large public service companies and factories of full protection and guaranteed the safety of their property."

The government announced today that it has under consideration a comprehensive plan for the settlement of labor disputes which have been growing acute in various parts of the republic during the past month. The plan includes the appointment of arbitration and conciliatory boards of divisional labor inspectors, and making the decisions of these bodies mandatory.

Public schools throughout Mexico City and the federal district will open Monday, after having been closed four months on account of the epidemic of typhus fever. General Rodriguez of the medical staff of the army and chief of the federal board of health, said that the number of cases of typhus registered during the present month shows a decrease of 50 per cent over those enumerated in December.

Statistics compiled by the board of health show that health conditions are better than at any time during the past 44 years, according to a statement by General Rodriguez.

HERE'S ANOTHER NAVAL "OUTRAGE"

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 26.—Bearing the inscription, "Madhouse C. P. O. Ship!" in letters painted in red more than a foot high on the bow, the torpedo boat destroyer Whipple arrived in port today from the target range of the Coronado Islands. The words, meaning, it is believed, "Chief Petty Officer's Ship," were painted at night by members of the crew, who, it is said, were dissatisfied with the quality of food served on the ship and lack of shore leave. A rigid investigation has been ordered by the Whipple officers, who term the incident a "gross outrage."

None of the officers of the destroyer was aware of the fact that the bow of the ship resembled a circus billboard, until their attention was called to the words when officers of the cruiser Milwaukee signalled as the Whipple came into the harbor.

Members of the crew of the Whipple, according to sailors from other warships in the harbor, have been dissatisfied for some time over what they allege is a curtailment of privileges, and the incident today is declared to have been an attempt to "show up" the officers.

BRINGS NEWS OF AN OCEAN CRASH

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SEATTLE, Feb. 26.—The Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner Awa Maru arrived from Yokohama today and brought details of the loss of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha liner Taijin Maru by collision with the Butterfield & Swire steamer Llanos, already briefly noted. The collision took place ten miles from Hongkong and the Taijin sank in three minutes. Although the Llanos did everything possible to rescue the Taijin's passengers and crew, only seven Chinese passengers of 111 and fourteen members of the crew of 50, including the captain and eleven Chinese deck hands, were saved, owing to the fact that all the passengers were asleep in their berths. So far as known there were no European passengers on the Taijin.

The Taijin Maru was a vessel of 1,557 tons gross.

MRS. ROWE MAKES DENIAL OF SPLIT SALARY CHARGES

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Split salary charges brought against Mrs. Louise Osborne Rowe, head of the city department of public welfare by Mrs. Page Waller Eaton, her subordinate, was characterized as "perfectly ridiculous today by Mrs. Rowe testifying at the investigation being conducted by the civil service committee. Mrs. Eaton alleged Mrs. Rowe had forced her to contribute a third of her \$3000 salary for the support of Mrs. Margaret E. Mivelaz, sister-in-law of Mayor Roosevelt.

Mrs. Rowe denied the charges emphatically and in detail. Neither the mayor nor his wife, referred to in the charges as "Mazie" ever had asked her to contribute to the support of a relative, she said in disposing of Mrs. Eaton's charge to her effect that Mrs. Rowe came to her with the statement that "Mazie says you've got to come across."

"Absolutely not," declared Mrs. Rowe on being asked whether she had accepted a cash contribution of any kind from Mrs. Eaton.

TOO BUSY TO GO TO CLUB

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 26.—The Workingmen's club, a resort for unemployed men maintained by private philanthropy, closed its doors tonight after a career of sixteen months, because the number of unemployed in Portland had become so small that the club's mission was considered to have been fulfilled.

During its career the club furnished 500,000 meals at five cents each, besides giving food outright to hundreds of penniless men. Reading rooms also were maintained.

STANDARD WILL USE MORE BOATS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The Standard Oil company of New Jersey has begun the construction of thirteen large tank steamers which will cost \$1,000,000 each, according to announcement made today by John D. Archbold, president of the company. The other companies of the Standard oil group are building thirty-six additional tankers, he said.

"The demand for oil is tremendous," Mr. Archbold declared. "We could sell all the oil we produce if there were enough ships to carry it for us."

TWO HURT IN AUTO CRASH

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 26.—H. W. Ellis of 3428 East Sixth street, Los Angeles, and L. Salazar of the same city were badly hurt early tonight when an automobile crashed into a wagon loaded with furniture which they were driving to this city. The owner of the automobile sped away after striking the wagon.

WILL NEGOTIATE BUT AMERICAN CITIZENS MUST BE SAFEGUARDED

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

Secretary Lansing Lets It Be Known United States Ready to Further Discuss Definition of Defensive Armament for Ships

THREE DAYS UNTIL DECREE OPERATIVE

Nothing Now to Indicate That Order to Treat Armed Merchant Ships as War Vessels Would Be Postponed

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Secretary Lansing indicated today that the United States was prepared to discuss under certain circumstances to discuss with the German government what may properly be regarded as a defensive armament for a relevant ship, in no event, however, according to a tentative information tonight, will the United States agree to such negotiations unless it is assured that the lives of American citizens aboard ships armed for defensive purposes will not be endangered during the course of the discussion.

Only three days remain before German and Austrian submarine commanders will be instructed to treat armed merchant ships as war vessels. There was no indication today that issuance of the order, announced in formal notifications from the central powers for February 29, would be postponed, although it was admitted that a postponement would not come as a surprise.

Leaders in both houses of congress, who for several days have agitated passage of a resolution warning Americans not to travel on armed ships, seemed convinced tonight that no such measure could be put through at present. Senator Gore, who has such a reputation for being a peace advocate, said today that while he still favored a warning he believed the objects sought by his resolution already had been accomplished through public discussion.

Representative McLenore, whose warning resolution has been kept from coming up by administration leaders, said he was content to wait until the president and Secretary Lansing had opportunity to try out their policy of asserting determinedly the right of travel on ships bearing arms.

Administration officials still were awaiting the receipt of the appendices to the latest German memorandum on the subject which contained what is alleged to be a copy of confidential instructions given to British sea captains. If this document contains what the German government claims, it is said to be probable inquiries may be addressed to Great Britain on the subject. The British government some time ago assured the United States that its merchant ships would not operate offensively.

Germany in its memorandum gives as one of the cardinal reasons for its determination to sink armed merchant ships of her enemies without warning the fact that German submarines have been fired upon repeatedly by merchant men which apparently were engaged in peaceful pursuits of commerce.

A high official of the state department questioned today this contention, giving it as his opinion that there might in certain cases be justification for one-sidedly committing acts in retaliation for violations of international law committed by an enemy. It was made plain that the department will make any decision in this connection until it has had opportunity to carefully inspect the appendices to the German memorandum.

It also was indicated at the state department today that Germany be recent acts had shown a disposition to change her original position in regard to the right of merchant ships to carry defensive armament. Originally the Berlin government denied that it was legal for merchant ships to arm at all. Now some officials here consider that Germany is willing to admit that armament is legal if purely defensive. In other words, it is believed the German government actually is attempting to change the rules rather than the law.

Should the subject be opened up for discussion the state department may, it was said, be willing to admit that there should be some regulation regarding the size and use of defensive armament supplementary to the instructions to port authorities issued September 2.

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CONSERVATIONISTS SATISFIED WITH PROPOSED WATER POWER MEASURE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—A water-power bill under which congress would retain control over the construction of dams on navigable rivers and a commission composed of the secretaries of war, interior and agriculture would regulate the use of power, will be introduced in the senate Monday by Senator Husting of Wisconsin as a substitute for the Shields bill, which has been debated in the senate for nearly two weeks. The substitute is said to satisfy conservationists who under the head of Clifford Pinchot have objected to some features of the pending measure.

A limit of thirty years would be set on power licenses by the Husting bill, but the commission could grant two renewals for ten years each. At expiration of a license the United States would take over the property until payment of a price fixed by the commission. A charge of not less than ten cents per theoretical horse-power is provided.

The bill also empowers the federal government to take possession of any improvement which becomes part of a combination or conspiracy to restrain the output or distribution of power, and to seize in time of necessity all power plants for the manufacture of nitrates and explosives.

REPUBLICANS OF CALIFORNIA ARE FOR HARMONY

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

Hope That Factional Lines Will Be Absent When the Californians Are Seated in Chicago Expressed by Chairman Keesling

IN NATURE OF PEACE CONFAB

Frisco Conference is Result of Meetings Held Earlier in Day by Old and New Republicans to Select Delegates

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 26.—Indications of harmony and, as Francis V. Keesling, chairman of the republican state central committee, expressed it, "hope" that factional lines would be absent when the California delegation is seated in the republican national convention in Chicago, prevailed here tonight after a joint conference of "old line" republicans and "new" republican endorser of "progress."

While nothing definite was accomplished during the conference, W. E. Mixon of Woodland, chairman of the conference committee of the state central executive committee, said at its termination:

"Everything seems favorable as far as we have gone. We have adjourned until next Monday and at that time I believe we will agree upon 26 delegates to the Chicago convention who will represent California into the battle with a united front."

When the conference committee returned to the meeting of the state central executive committee which had been interrupted during the deliberations, its members reported progress and the feeling was general that a state of delegates would be adopted whose personnel would be acceptable to both factions.

The "peace" conference was the result of meetings held earlier in the day by both the "old" and "new" republicans, each proposing to select a list of 26 delegates to represent California at the Chicago convention on June 7. Peace talk prevailed and committees were appointed by each faction and the conference was arranged.

The "new" republicans went into the meeting with a list of 26 names reported in by their nominating committee, but the "old line" had not named their selections as delegates.

The Olive branch which the republican state central executive committee accepted almost immediately upon convening at the Palace hotel, was waived at the old guard in an unofficial manner, the "new" conference failing to act on the suggestion that the wishes of the "old" republicans be considered as proposed by Francis V. Keesling, who attended the opposition gathering unofficially.

Gay C. Earl of Oakland, who was active in calling the conference of the "new" republicans, as chairman of the meeting, replied to Keesling's suggestion of a harmony conference with a statement that the state central committee has no function to name delegates. Except from Mr. Keesling, as an individual, we have had no invitation to confer with the

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FLOATING ICE STOPS RESCUE OF MAN MAROONED IN TREE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

OSKALOOSA, Ia., Feb. 26.—Charles Thomas is probably the most uncomfortable man in the United States tonight. He is perched on the limb of a tree in the Des Moines river seven miles southwest of this city and cannot reach him because of floating ice. Thomas not only is marooned in the dark, but his clothing is wet and he has not eaten since noon.

The adventure which landed Thomas in the tree cost the life of A. E. Rommel, official engineer of Malaka county. The two men, who are well known, started out in a skiff to dynamite an ice gorge. The boat was caused by a big cake of ice and Rommel was drowned. The river is out of its banks as a result of the gorge.

Steamers Rescuing NEW ORLEANS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

Tonight steamers were removing from the vicinity of Jonesville, La., hundreds of persons caught by the overflow of the Black, Little and Ouachita rivers. Jonesville is partly under water and many farms in the lowlands are flooded.

Concordia Asks Relief

NATCHEZ, Miss., Feb. 26.—Urgent appeals for assistance came to Natchez tonight from Concordia Parish where 2,000 families have been driven from their homes by the food waters of the Mississippi. Many of the inhabitants have taken refuge on the river embankments. Food supplies are reported short.

Reports from the Black river region continue to tell of suffering there. Many points along the Black river are isolated and actual conditions are not known there.

In the vicinity of Newellton the flood water was said to be receding slowly. At Waterproof the water was said to be stationary, but from there south it was spreading over high lands not previously affected.